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Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13
DHA-02 /081 W
---------- 102281 /15
R 230500Z DEC 76
FM AMCONSUL ASMARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4289
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON
COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN
COMIDEASTFOR
NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA
NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI
CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 1083

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS ET
SUBJECT: TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES: MIXING OIL AND WATER

REF: ASMARA 1078, (210930Z DEC 76)

1. THE MASSAWA CONVOY WHICH DEPARTED ASMARA ON THE MORNING OF DEC. 20 RETURNED TO THE CITY AT MID-AFTERNOON HAVING TRAVELED ONLY 15 KM. FROM ASMARA. THE REASON FOR THEIR PREMATURE RETURN WAS THAT THERE WAS AN INSURGENT ATTACK ON AN OUTPOST ON THE MASSAWA AT MAI ATALA JUST OUTSIDE OF MASSAWA. WORD OF THIS INCIDENT WAS RELAYED TO THE CONVOY, AND THE ESCORT FORCES DECIDED TO RETURN TO ASMARA. THE CONVOY LEFT AGIN ON THE MORNING OF DEC. 21 WITH AN EVEN STRONGER ESCORT FORCE AND PERMITTED A
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NUMBER OF PRIVATE VEHICLES (INCLUDING ITALIANS WISHING TO SPEND THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY IN MASSAWA) TO ACCOMPANY THEM. THERE ARE RUMORS THAT A LARGE BAND OF INSURGENTS ARE ASSEMBLING WITH STRIKING DISTANCE OF THE MASSAWA ROAD TO PREVENT THE RETURN TO ASMARA OF THE FUEL CONVOY.

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2. ASMARA HAS RECEIVED ONLY VERY LIMITED AND SPORADIC WATER SERVICE SINCE THE INSURGENTS DESTROYED A SECTION OF PIPE FROM THE MAI NEHFI RESERVOIR ON DEC 18. A REPAIR PARTY WHICH ATTEMPTED TO REACH THE SITE OF THE BREAK (REPORTED TO BE WITHIN 3 KM OF THE RESERVOIR) ON DEC. 19 WAS THWARTED WHEN THEIR LEAD VEHICLE STRUCK LAND MINE SHORTLY AFTER TURNING OFF THE PAVED ROAD LEADING TOWARD THE FORMER KAGNEW TRACT D. REPAIR EFFORTS WERE HAMPERED BY THE LACK OF ADEQUATE ESCORT FORCES ON DEC. 20, HOWEVER, THE REPAIR CREW APPARENTLY REACHED THE SITE DEC. 21. REPAIRS HAVE NOW BEEN COMPLETED ACCORDING TO THE CHIEF OF THE MUNICIPALITY'S WATER SERVICE AND DISTRIBUTION SHOULD RESUME THE EVENING OF DEC. 22.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROVINCE, WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM, TERRORISTS, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION, GROUND VEHICLES
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 23 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Authority: ElyME
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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